

HARTFORD BEATINGS, MEETINGS

AND MAYBE A LITTLE PROGRESS

By John Wilhelm

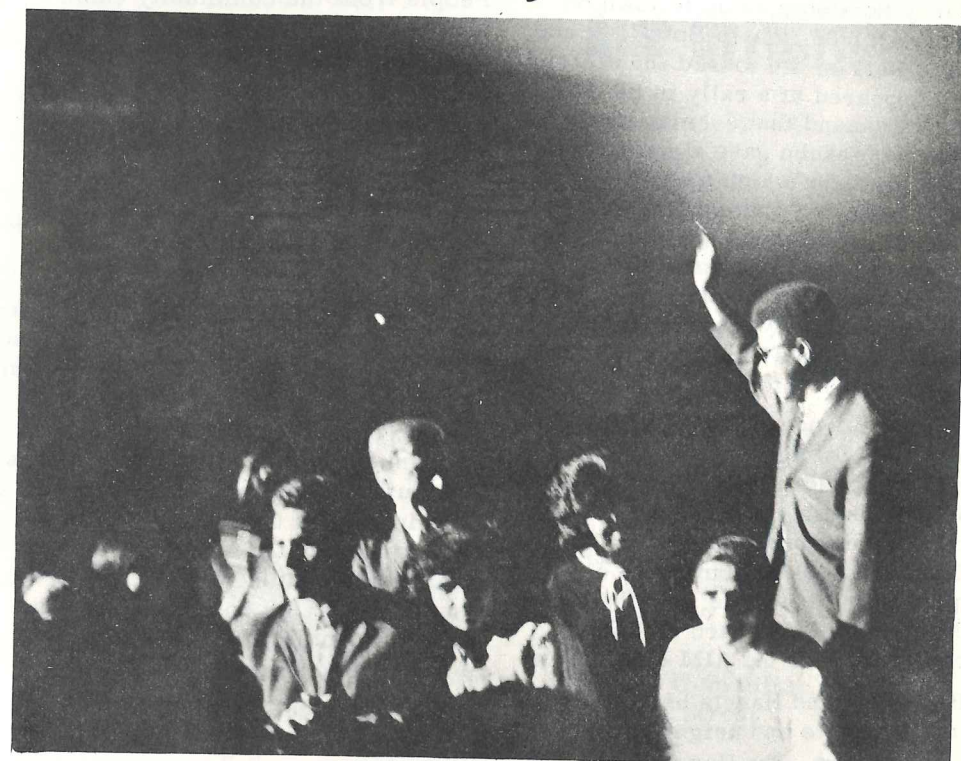
Seventeen people were arrested and several beaten by state police, but many of the New Haven people who went to Hartford last month to protest the inadequate state welfare system think maybe it was all worth it.

"They're scared because they don't want to bring no more action down on state welfare," said Willie Counsel of the Hill Parents Association. "The pressure have been put on Shapiro and he can no longer ignore the fact that peoples on state welfare don't have enough money."

Mr. Counsel was one of those badly beaten and arrested when state welfare commissioner Bernard Shapiro refused to see poor people's groups from six Connecticut towns September 14. Shapiro said the people were a "mob." However, he agreed to a meeting when the people came back September 27.

Only about 60 people came to the second meeting. There were reports from several towns, and at least one confirmed incident in New Haven, of caseworkers threatening recipients if they went back September 27. Between 150 and 200 people, about two-thirds of them on welfare, went to the first march.

At the second meeting, in Hartford's
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Fred Harris is introduced by Harry Belafonte at the Arena. He is sitting with his wife Rose and Bob and Karin Cook.

CAMPAIGN IN HIGH GEAR

The response to Bob Cook's recent address before the Connecticut State Labor Council of the AFL-CIO was remarkably good. (Cook's address was printed in the last issue of AIM.) The official statement endorsed the Democratic incumbent in this district as in all Connecticut districts, but it considered Cook's position in greater detail:

We highly commend Cook for his positive and forthright positions on labor and public policy questions, but his position regarding

US policy in Viet-Nam is opposed to that of the AFL-CIO and is directly opposite to President Johnson's conduct of the conflict.

Informally, many of the labor delegates gave Cook warm and generous support. The official statement made the following remarks about the Republican candidate:

Salmona has no voting record and his stance on current issues selected for discussion by COPE

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AIM

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Individuals or groups not now
receiving AIM are invited to add
their names to our mailing list.
Write to the editor, or call 787-0123.

campaign cont.

(Committee on Political Education) left him with a lower rating than either Giaimo or Cook.

Harry Belafonte came to town on September 25 to help Bob Cook and Fred Harris. He toured the district and appeared at a rally in the Dixwell area, and that evening he and Miriam Makeba gave a concert in the Arena, for which 3300 tickets were sold. The Community Concert Committee hopes to net \$4000 after paying its expenses and will then distribute the proceeds among the three beneficiary organizations, the Hill Parents Association, LEAP, and the Cook for Congress campaign.

After the concert Belafonte joined those who had held patron seats at a party in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Lashnitz. Following remarks by Bob Cook and Fred Harris, Belafonte spoke warmly and eloquently for the cause. We thank him deeply for his concern and his contribution to the AIM campaigns.

Both Cook and Harris have been out in the streets and neighborhoods to gain support. The Harris campaign is working in the 106th District and especially in the Farnum Courts project, stressing voter registration. Bob Cook has been going to factories, banks, supermarkets, and shopping centers, in addition to many appearances before organizations, schools, parties and coffee hours.

The campaign needs more of these parties and coffee hours, but requests that they be rather large so that Bob can reach as many people as possible before November 8. To give an idea of Bob's crowded schedule, we are printing a preliminary list of his dates for the first two weeks of October at the end of this article. Don't miss his radio and television appearances on

October 3 and October 9.

Door to door canvassing for Cook and Harris has been organized for most of the 33 wards in the district. Each ward has or soon will have a chairman and a team of canvassers who will attempt to contact every voter. You are needed. Call Cook headquarters, 787-0123 or Harris headquarters, 865-6666 for information. You can work in your own neighborhood and set your own schedule.

A street meeting was held by the Harris campaign September 17 at the corner of Cedar and Prince Streets. People from the community came forth to express their experiences with the police, and their testimony was fully recorded on tape and partly on film. Recommendations on police activity will be formulated from these hearings and presented to city officials.

Two more full-time workers have joined the Cook campaign -- Judy Miller and James E. Smith will be working in the Dixwell area.

Branford and Guilford have now set up local town offices for the Cook campaign, joining Milford and Hamden, which already have offices. The Guilford office is in the Monroe Building on the Green and will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will feature an art show from October 9th until election day. More information on the activities of these offices will be in the next newsletter.

Bob Cook's Schedule

Tuesday, October 4: 8:30 p.m. coffee - Beverly Zimmerman.

Wednesday, October 5: 3:00 p.m. speech - Sacred Heart University - Park Avenue, Bridgeport.

Thursday, October 6: 8:00 p.m. Yale Law School Young Democrats - Faculty Lounge.

Friday, October 7: 12:30 p.m. lunch - Lutheran clergy, Dwight Hall, Yale. 7:30 p.m. coffee - Roger Burnham - Milford.

Saturday, October 8: 4-7:00 p.m. cocktails - Jed Bierhaus.

Sunday, October 9: 10:30 a.m. 2
Candidate debate at Unitarian Church - New Haven.
5:30-6:00 p.m. WTIC Candidate debate.

Monday, October 10: 8:30 p.m. West Hills Community Council, Candidate debate.

Tuesday, October 11: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. speech to First Methodist Church - New Haven Green.

Wednesday, October 12: 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. speech at Hamden Hall - Hamden; 1:30 p.m. coffee - Mrs. Robert Gage - Milford; 8:30 p.m. coffee - Joseph Glick, Mrs. J. McKee.

Thursday, October 13: 8:15-9:30 a.m. Wilbur Cross Highschool - speakers: Salmons and Cook; 12 noon speech - New Haven Lions Club at DeNicola's Restaurant.

Friday, October 14: 1:00 p.m. Senior Center - Cedar St. School.

Saturday, October 15: 6:30 p.m. West Haven Highschool United Nations Club - Papa Conti's Restaurant.

ADVICE TO STATESMEN, AMONG OTHERS

It has been said,
By Teddy R:
"Speak softly, and carry a big stick!"

Fine, I say,
For catching rats,
Killing snakes, and maybe even for
Taking a walk on the moon.
But it ain't so good for peace,
Nor for freedom,
Nor for people.

I would suggest:
"WALK human, TALK human, carry what you need;
Mainly carry with you that
YOU'RE human, THEY'RE human,
And maybe, just maybe,
You won't need that stick."

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COOK SAYS: WE MUST WIN

Nothing has better demonstrated the bankruptcy of traditional American party politics than the fall 1966 campaign response to the twin crises of American society -- the war in Viet-Nam overseas; poverty and civil rights at home.

Despite massive evidence to the contrary, from opinion polls, primary elections, and the general press, the Democrats continue to insist that the war is not an issue in this election. This is incredible. We are spending nearly \$2 billion per month in Viet-Nam. We have close to 400,000 troops there. The war is now the center of our foreign policy; it has cut us off from our allies; it has caused rapidly mounting inflation at home and extensive cutbacks in already inadequate "Great Society" programs. There has been a general defection of intellectuals from Johnson's war, auguring a major split in the Democratic Party.

Our policy in Viet-Nam is simply an extension of that initiated long ago by John Foster Dulles. It has been proven wrong time after time. Yet each mistake is covered by the next stage of escalation. Johnson has surrounded himself with fanatic cold warriors who agree with him. Each move in the war has become a tactic for domestic partisan politics as well as international power politics. This has made it more and more difficult for the President to consider alternate policies, to retrench, or change course. He seems intent upon carrying us into the abyss. In going along with him, the Democratic Party has demonstrated its inability to govern effectively. For if our majority party cannot withdraw from a disaster like Viet-Nam, then it has forfeited its right to lead the country.

The Republicans are in worse shape. They have no analysis of the war, no moral position, no alternate policy. They are now trying to pin the war on Johnson and the Democrats, forgetting that the few really respon-



Bob Cook shakes a voter's hand near the AIM booth at the North Haven Fair.

sible voices of opposition to the war, and the votes against war appropriations, have been Democratic, not Republican. Their current effort to exploit the confusion of the American people over the war is a most transparent political device of the lowest order. By this lack of direction or principle other than opportunism, from Nixon on down to their local congressional candidate, the Republicans have forfeited their right to be taken seriously as an opposition party.

The parody of politics around the recent civil rights bill and other "Great Society" legislation demonstrates the same points. The Democrats vacillate, the Republicans obstruct. In the end, every constructive program is emasculated. There is a very real question whether these parties are capable of dealing with the domestic crises we face today -- the human crisis of social justice for the colored (Negroes, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans) and the poor; the technical crisis of polluted air and water, overburdened transportation systems, inadequate housing; the moral crisis of the generally deteriorating quality of American life.

It appears that we are now at a crossroads in American history. The current impasse cannot last.

A neo-fascistic reaction is a real possibility. If the United States is to move in a progressive direction, if it

is to avoid carrying us all into World War III, then a new political force must emerge. Such a force would be dedicated to building a decent, humane society and a peaceful world, but at the same time it must be hardheaded in its approach to political organization. All over the United States, from Alabama to California, people have begun this work. We in AIM are part of this movement. The stakes in this game are high -- a new society on the one hand, probably total devastation on the other. We have no choice but to play to win.

AIM OFFICERS

Robert M. Cook -- Candidate for Congress
Robert Zellner -- Campaign Manager
Jack Osborne -- Associate Campaign Manager
Nina Adams -- Secretary
Joan Stone -- Treasurer
Mike Parrish -- News Director
Robert Gellbach -- Finance Chairman

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Whitneyville
288-7039

Branford Committee for Cook
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Branford
488-6179

Guilford Cook for Congress Office
85 Whitfield Street (on the Green)
Guilford
453-9696

Milford Cook for Congress Office
15 River Street
Milford
878-5452

Harris for Assembly
156 Washington Avenue
New Haven
865-6666

Register to Vote
Deadline -- October 15!

JOHNSON AND INFLATION

"TRY TO GET BY WITH SOME
BALING WIRE"

by Jim Anderson

Anyone who has been in a supermarket, department store, or hospital in the last few months knows that prices are going up. Almost every trip to the store reminds the shopper of this. Every trip to the doctor or hospital drives home a simple and cruel fact: it's getting more and more expensive to be sick. By this time, almost everyone knows an inflation is taking place. It affects nearly every citizen--the housewife, the farmer, the businessman, and most of all, the poor person. Whether you buy copper, machinery, food, or medical care, the story is the same --the dollar buys less than ever. President Johnson and his Administration seem confused by the inflation. First they say there really isn't any. Maybe a few price increases here and there, but nothing to get excited about. Then the Administration turns around and says that rising prices aren't the Federal Government's fault. They say the farmer is to blame, and for a while try to cut farm prices, even though many farmers are being driven from their land by low prices. They blame the steel and aluminum companies, and dump Government stockpiles of metals to hold down those prices. The Administration has even tried to blame the housewife who supposedly ought to be buying the cheaper cuts of meat and cheaper brands of food. As if there were any left. Two weeks ago Johnson told a group of governors they should postpone raising money by bond issues for highways and school construction.

The simple fact is that the Johnson Administration has done almost nothing to prevent an inflation which is bad enough already, and may get worse in the coming months. Nothing, that is, except to say there isn't a serious inflation and to blame it on everybody except the Government. We would have to look a long time to find a period of Ameri-

can history when the Government has taken so little action and done so much lying about the economy. The Administration knew last January that an inflation was beginning, but decided not to raise taxes--the only effective weapon against inflation. Evidently it was afraid of hurting the chances of the Democrats in this fall's elections.

But there was another reason the Administration didn't want to tell the truth about rising prices. The most important cause of the rising prices--overshadowing all others--is the cost of the war in Viet-Nam. Johnson didn't want to admit that the war has become so big and so costly--it's costing over thirty billion dollars a year now--that it has put a heavy load on the economy. The important thing to remember about the war is not the supposedly small cost of it, but the fact that it has been piled on top of an economy which was already fully loaded. In other words, it was the final straw on the economic camel's back. Something had to give, and something did give. Prices started going up.

Now, months too late, Johnson has made some proposals to cut down spending in this country. He has suspended the tax credits which businessmen received for buying new equipment. He has also suspended a special "bonus" depreciation allowance which would have given tax credits to owners of newly constructed homes, apartment buildings, and stores. He has encouraged the Federal Reserve Board to do all it can to lower interest rates on loans. And he has further cut government spending for so-called "lower priority" projects, such as construction. It is "low priority" projects such as the war on poverty that have been cut all along for the war in Viet-Nam. The effects of these changes will not come until at least a year from now, and by then, the economy may have turned downward into a recession. Johnson himself seemed to admit that he wasn't doing much when he said a week ago, "as we say down on the farm, maybe we ought to try to get by with some baling wire, patch things up." As with the war in Viet-Nam, John-

son will probably wait until after the election to really do something. In that way he will have to ask Congress for more money for the war in Viet-Nam, from eight to fifteen billion dollars more. Then he will raise taxes, both personal and business income taxes, from seven to ten per cent. And it now looks like he will ask Congress for formal wage and price controls such as we have not seen in the United States since the Korean War.

beatings, meetings cont.

Asylum Avenue Baptist Church, people from the march, mostly welfare recipients, asked Shapiro and his assistants questions about state welfare. September 27's meeting was just what they had wanted the first time they came.

Mrs. Shirley Penn of the Hill Parents Association wanted to know from Shapiro why she hadn't gotten emergency money for school clothing and why her heating allowance was so low. Others asked questions about rent, food allowances, medical services, and other essentials.

Mrs. Penn said later that she received her check for school clothes allowance three days after the meeting. "I left there feeling good," she said. "I definitely know we shook Shapiro up, and he's going to do something. You going to tell me they had that school clothes money last year? Kids went to school the best way they could last year. He definitely knows if he don't do something, we're going back up there."

Fred Harris, AIM candidate for state assembly who was a leader of the group, agreed. "As long as they have a state welfare in this country, action will be necessary. This meeting showed that at least these people realize they are going to have to deal with us and recognize us and work harder to come up with real solutions to our problems--no, not our problems, their problems." The welfare department published a long paper to justify itself when the group gave its 20 demands. Mrs.

Louise Harris, chairman of New Haven CORE, added more demands --many suggested by welfare case-workers--when she made the group's opening statement September 27.

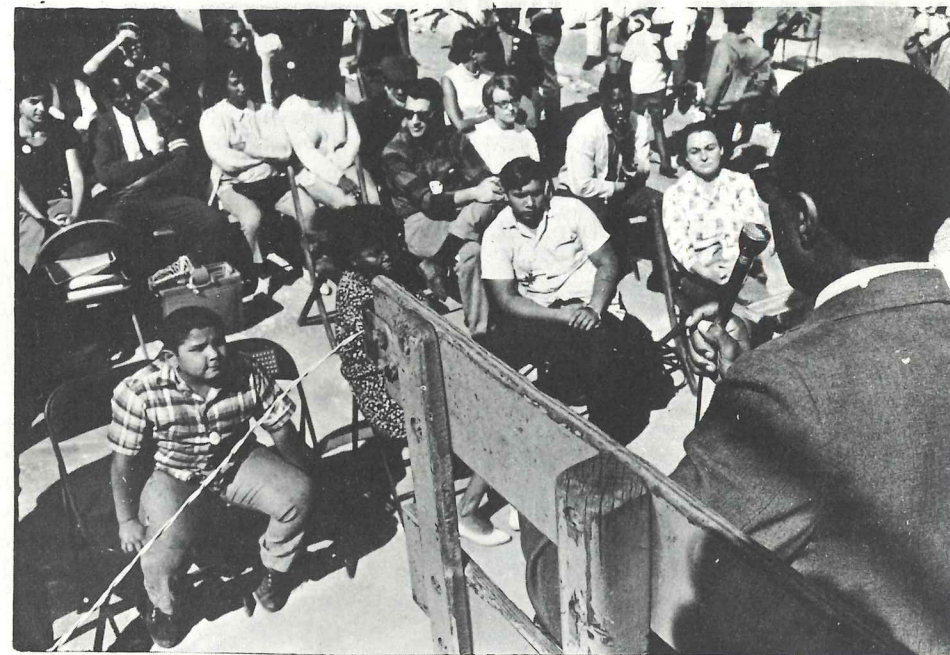
Mostly the welfare department's replies said little. To the demand, "Welfare people should be given decent treatment," the department said, "We agree," but Shapiro never said what he would do about the many examples of inhumane treatment the people on welfare gave

To the statement, "Welfare people should be given enough money to meet increased cost of living," the department said that it "is in accord with this principle." Mainly, all Shapiro could say was that Connecticut ranks second in the country in welfare payments, which means that it's one of the best of a bad lot. Junius Williams, a Yale law student working with the group, got Shapiro to admit at the September 27 meeting that people couldn't live decently on welfare budgets.

To the demand that "People on welfare should be protected in their constitutional rights against search and seizure," the department said: "It is Department policy to protect the Constitutional rights of recipients. We guard against any violation. . . if he does not want to furnish information. . . he may withdraw his application for Public Assistance, and confidentiality of the record is protected." In other words, you can have your constitutional rights or you can have welfare, but you can't have both.

Willie Counsel thought the September 27 meeting proved that poor people are sick of bad treatment, even if Shapiro himself just made excuses. "Shapiro's not going to do nothing himself. It's got to be up to the peoples to make some changes, not Shapiro. I want to see the state welfare mothers be there at the state legislature and voice their opinions for themselves and demand changes."

The first visit to Hartford on September 14 was as usual very badly covered by press, television and all but three radio stations. Most called it a "riot" or "near riot."



Fred Harris invites the audience to talk about their experiences with the New Haven police at the public hearings on Saturday afternoon September 17 on Cedar Street.

The marchers went to the corridor in front of Shapiro's office--which is a huge room, big enough to hold the whole group--and asked either to go in or for him to come out. He refused to see more than six representatives.

Fred Harris asked how the group felt about each offer from Shapiro. The marchers refused each offer until Shapiro's assistant suggested that Shapiro come to the door and speak to the whole group, with a representative from each town doing the questioning. The group agreed, but Shapiro refused, which seemed to embarrass the assistant.

Finally the group decided to go in anyway. Outside, there was some beating by Hartford police with nightsticks. Louise Harris was slapped. Inside, away from reporters and photographers, state police with blackjacks beat the ten who got in. Mr. Counsel, Mr. Harris, and Carl Miller, a parish worker from Zion Lutheran Church, were badly cut on the head.

These ten were charged with disorderly conduct and inciting to riot. The second charge was later changed to resisting arrest. Their cases have been continued in Hartford Circuit Court until October 14. So have the cases of seven more marchers arrested later for tres-

passing when they refused to leave the building, which is owned by Republican gubernatorial candidate Clayton Gengras.

The Hill Parents Association and the Harris for Assembly campaign said in a statement the next day, "Poor people have not been allowed to speak for themselves for too long, and each of the people on welfare came to Hartford to tell Commissioner Shapiro why the welfare system is rotten. Commissioner Shapiro needs to hear that."

The group felt that the second meeting proved that a confrontation between the whole group and Shapiro was much more useful than a private meeting with representatives.

The statement also said, "It is our opinion that the police were doing their best to incite a riot. It is amazing that the poor people did not respond to brutal police treatment with violence on their own part. It is impossible to get across in words the disgust and rage that this assault produced. We will not forget."

AIM Congressional candidate Robert M. Cook also released a statement condemning the beatings and urging Governor Dempsey to take disciplinary action against the police.

POLITICAL CALENDAR

Cook Campaign:

October 9, Sunday: 4-6:00 p.m.
Guilford Art Show, Raffle and Sale -
at Guilford Cook for Congress Office
5:30 p.m. Television debate with
Cook - WTIC, Hartford.

October 10, Monday: 8:30 p.m.
Regular Monday night meeting on
campaign issues - John Wilhelm
speaking on welfare at main office,
241 Orange Street.

October 15, Saturday: 3:00 p.m.
Voter registration rally with James
Meredith - Trinity Temple on
Dixwell Avenue.

October 24, Monday: 8:00 p.m.
Regular Monday night meeting on

campaign issues.

City Politics:

October 6, 13, 20, 27 - Thursdays
at 9:00 a.m. Regular meetings of
New Haven Board of Finance at
200 Orange Street, 3rd floor (Oct.
6 meeting especially important).

October 10, 24 - Mondays 8:00 p.m.
Department of Education meetings
in Board of Education Office, 200
Orange Street.

Dates for meetings of the Board of
Aldermen, Ward Committee meet-
ings, and Redevelopment Project
meetings on Dwight, Dixwell, Fair
Haven, Newhallville, and the Hill
will be printed in forthcoming AIM
newsletters.

VOTER REGISTRATION

RALLY

with

JAMES MEREDITH

THE FREEDOM SINGERS
and
FRED HARRIS

SAT., OCT. 15, 1966--3:00 P.M.
TRINITY TEMPLE
Corner Dixwell Avenue & Henry
Street
BISHOP C.H. BREWER, Pastor
FREE ADMISSION

AIM

Independent Political Action Committee
241 Orange Street
New Haven
Connecticut

COOK **FOR** **CONGRESS**
HARRIS **FOR** **ASSEMBLY**

STOP BULLETS WITH BALLOTS!